

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8691
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 523

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR,SP,PO
SUBJECT: SA CARNEIRO'S VISIT TO SPAIN

REF: MADRID 405 LISBON 447 ET AL

1. FOR THE RECORD, PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO'S JANUARY 11-15 VISIT TO SPAIN ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVE AS A SUCCESSFUL MEDIA EVENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF HIS SPANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HOSTS, THE FEDERACION SOCIALDEMOCRATA (FSD) OF FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ/LASUEN, ALTHOUGH SA CARNEIRO'S CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS TO MADRID'S EL PAIS CLEARLY IMPACTED DIFFERENTLY AT HOME (LISBON 442). NOTHING TANGIBLE APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED HERE FROM THE VISIT, EXCEPT FOR THE EXPRESSED INTENTION OF PSD AND FSD LEADERS TO FORM AN "IBERIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION" (ASDI) TO BE BROADENED LATER TO EMBRACE THE "LATIN COMMUNITY" (I.E. EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA), AND WHOSE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DEVELOP COORDINATED POLICIES AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. THE LEADERSHIP OF ASDI REPORTEDLY WILL BE DETERMINED AT A LATER PSD-FSD MEETING IN LISBON.

2. THE PORTUGUESE LEADER WAS ACCORDED CONSIDERABLE AND GENERALLY POSITIVE PRESS EXPOSURE DURING HIS STAY, PRI-
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MARILY AS THE RESULT OF HIS PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ (JANUARY 12), THE KING (JANUARY 13), AND FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA (JANUARY 14). BETWEEN THESE MEETINGS WITH GOVT LEADERS, SA CARNEIRO PARTICIPATED IN "WORKING SESSIONS" WITH VARIOUS LEADERS OF THE MADRID-BASED FSD. AFTER SEEING OREJA, HE TRAVELED TO BARCELONA WHERE HE MET WITH JORDI PUJOL (CONVERGENCIA DEMO-

CRATICA DE CATALUNA), FAUME CASANOVAS (PARTIT SOCIAL-DEMOCRATA DE CATALUNA) AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE CATALAN CENTER-LEFT.

3. IN CONTRAST TO HIS CONTENTIOUS STATEMENTS TO EL PAIS ABOUT THE SOARES GOVT, SA CARNEIRO SAID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS ABOUT THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS, HIS HOSTS, AND THE GOVT LEADERS WITH WHOM HE MET. EVEN THE EL PAIS INTERVIEW, IN WHICH HE ACCUSED THE SOARES GOVT OF INEFFECTIVENESS AND OF MAKING GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTMENTS ON THE BASIS OF PARTY LOYALTY RATHER THAN ABILITY, PRODUCED TO IT SURFACED. EVEN THEN, ONLY PSOE SEC-GEN FELIPE GONZALEZ AND SMALL PSP SEC GEN RAUL MORODO (WHO WAS MEETING WITH SOARES IN LISBON AT THE TIME) PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE "INAPPROPRIATE" NATURE OF SA CARNEIRO'S REMARKS.

4. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE CONSIDERED THE VISIT TO HAVE BEEN PRODUCTIVE AND DISMISSED THE EL PAIS CONTRETEMPS. MORODO, FOR HIS PART, SAID HE HAD BEEN IN LISBON ON PRIVATE BUSINESS WHEN THE STORM BROKE, AND THAT HE HAD MET WITH SOARES FOR FOUR HOURS (HALF OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO THE SUBJECT OF SA CARNEIRO) AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, HE FELT COMPELLED TO CRITICIZE SA CARNEIRO'S STATEMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE TOO FELT THAT THE EPISODE HAD BEEN BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION LARGELY DUE TO WELL-KNOWN AND UNDERSTANDABLE PORTUGUESE SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING SPAIN. STABLER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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